

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for manufacturing flat glass rich in lead oxide, comprising:

continuously floating a ribbon of glass on a bath of molten metal comprising tin containing at least 30% lead oxide by weight on a bath of molten metal having a density higher than that of the glass;

wherein said floating occurs in a float plant with a neutral gaseous atmosphere above the ribbon of glass and bath of molten metal.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neutral gaseous atmosphere comprises less than 5 ppmv oxygen.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neutral gaseous atmosphere is a nitrogen atmosphere.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the bath of molten metal is lower than the temperature of a bath of molten metal in a float plant for a soda-lime-silica glass containing no lead.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the floating glass is between 500°C and 800°C.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a molten metal treatment station is included with said bath.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the glass comprises at least 45% lead oxide by weight.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the glass comprises at least 60% lead oxide by weight.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the glass has a density ranging from 4 to 6.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the glass has a density ranging from 4.3 to 5.5.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, before the float plant, the glass is melted in a furnace that includes at least one submerged burner.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the furnace comprises at least a first and a second tank in series, the second tank being fed with lead oxide.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first tank is equipped with at least one submerged burner and is fed with the batch materials other than lead oxide.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the second tank is at a lower temperature than the first tank.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A flat glass comprising at least 30% lead oxide by weight, manufactured by the process of claim 1.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): [[A]] The flat glass of claim 15 that is comprising at least 30% lead oxide by weight, enriched on one face with tin.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The glass as claimed in claim 16, comprising at least 60% lead oxide by weight.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method of using the glass of claim 16 for protection against X-rays.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein said neutral gaseous atmosphere does not contain hydrogen.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the neutral gaseous atmosphere contains less than 5 ppmv oxygen, the temperature of the floating glass ranges between 500°C and 800°C, and the glass has a density ranging from 4 to 6.

Claim 21 (New): A process for manufacturing flat glass rich in lead oxide, comprising:

continuously floating a ribbon of glass on a bath of molten metal comprising tin containing at least 30% lead oxide by weight on a bath of molten metal having a density higher than that of the glass;

wherein said floating occurs in a float plant that contains an atmosphere above the ribbon of glass and bath of molten metal that consists essentially of neutral gases, but which may contain up to 5 ppm oxygen.